

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

HAVING resigned my situation in the *Tuen Fat Hong*, I have this day submitted my services as MERCHANT and COMMISION AGENT, under the style of "SUX GRIE & CO."

C. SUN GHEN,
1685 Hongkong, 13th November, 1875.

THE UNDERSIGN has been appointed AGENT at this Port for Messrs. HENRY S. KING & CO., of London.

OFFICE—No. 6, Stanley Street.

W. H. NOTLEY,
t 1765 Hongkong, 24th October, 1875.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY.
FOR 1876,

(With which will be incorporated the CHINA DIRECTORY).

THE Publisher requests that those who have not yet returned the printed forms which have been sent to them to fill up, will be good enough to do so without delay. Any persons who have recently arrived, and to whom printed forms have not been sent, are respectfully requested to forward their names and addresses as early as possible for insertion.

Daily Press Office, November 22nd, 1875.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 3, 1875.

PERHAPS the most formidable obstacle in the way of military reform in China is to be found in the disinclination of the officers to submit to the discipline necessary to make them efficient. They do not yet seem to understand that it is impossible to preserve proper discipline unless they subject themselves to certain rules. They admit that it is good for the rank and file, and can admit the precision in their movements attained by European drilled-in veterans. But their pride stands in the way of their going through the drill themselves; they fancy that would be disgraced in the eyes of their subordinates by submitting to it. The officers generally both in the army and navy are miserably deficient in almost every quality which goes to make a good soldier. Many of them are arrant cowards, and are too often the first to initiate an ignominious flight. It will need a vigorous hand, indeed to deal with this question of army reform, if ever it is dealt with. The present army of China is a mere caricature, and is chiefly remarkable for its utter absurdity. The officers with their whims and prejudices will always constitute a serious impediment to any effective improvement. The men may be drilled into passably efficient soldiers by European instructors; of that sufficient evidence has been given already; but the officers are too proud and conceited to learn. Offered by Europeans, a Chinese army would prove no contemptible foe; but so long as the fan-carrying, peacock-feather bedizened native leaders them, the soldiers will be easily scattered as a flock of sheep. Any commander who has the temerity to undertake to carry out a genuine reform in the military system of China will undoubtedly provoke a storm of opposition that will be difficult to withstand.

It is very seldom indeed that a Chinese official attempts to override custom, and hence abuses of power and lapses of duty are common enough. Now and then an instance crops up of a rude official, interested at the perfidious performance of their duties by his subordinates, visits them with sudden and unexpected punishment. One such has lately been recorded. The recently appointed Imperial Commissioner at the Mamei Arsenal, Foochow, has signified his accession to office by some measures which have considerably astonished his underlings. The native Superintendent, a Red Buttock Mandarin, has, it is reported, summarily dismissed, and the officers of the fleet have also come in for a share of His Excellency's uncomely attentions. One of the captains has received our hundred blows with the bamboo and been reduced to the rank of a common sailor. It seems there was some little difficulty in carrying out an order of the Commissioner's in regard to the embarkation of some troops and military stores destined for Formosa. The Commissioner was separated at the opposition to his will and passed the severe sentence mentioned above on the general, with the command that it should be immediately carried into effect. This exhibition of energetic action may have been well meant, but it is questionable how far such harsh treatment of those under him was justified by the circumstances. It is much to be feared that it was the virtuous outburst of a newcomer, anxious to show the Government his zeal in putting matters to rights; and also desirous perhaps, to make it appear to the officers under his control that his authority must be acknowledged and obeyed. But things will doubtless soon fall into the old groove again when the great man has made his presence sufficiently felt and appreciated.

And yet there surely must be some sensible men among the officials of China who cannot fail to see that the obstinate and fatuous clinging to old customs and practices in the army and navy are destructive to all hope of rendering those services fit for the protection of the country. They have had a good many opportunities of comparing their system with that of European countries, and ought to have profited by them. It is very little good purchasing arms and equipments for men who do not know how to use them. The untrained, idle, ill-fed, and ill-paid soldiers allow their guns to get hopelessly rusty and out of repair, and it is probable that if China engaged in war with another power, some of the weapons used by the troops would do more injury to the owners than to the enemy. All the reforms hitherto made would prove of comparatively little effect. The vast majority of the Chinese army—if such it can be called—is so ill disciplined and miserably equipped that it would be easily routed by a civilized force as a street mob. There are some few corps who have been drilled by European or American instructors, but even these are practically without officers, and would not be able to make a stand against a Western foe. This question is, however, one that concerns China alone. If her rulers are content that she should remain weak and powerless to resist the will of much smaller

but more vigorous states, it is their own look-out. Certainly there is no more conclusive proof of the extent and power of custom in China than the reluctance shown even to adopt the improvements of Western countries into their military system. Any other nation would long since have discarded such a primitive weapon as the bow. But the archers are sanctioned by tradition; the archers must therefore be retained. That evidently stupid weapon, the gun, is also consecrated by long use, and therefore must not be altogether rejected. The Chinese have a lumber room for the reception of antiquities; they are all, more or less, in use. It would be a fine thing for the Empire if, with some of their weapons and accoutrements, the officers of the army and navy would put away the pride and conceit which now so offensively block the path of reform and improvement.

The Govr. of Kien-si has requested Marshal MacMahon to drink his health in tea. A chest of the Imperial triple inlaid by His Majesty from China by way of Siberia, and worth 200 francs (80) per pound, has been sent by special despatch to the Marshal Bank, which is now being wound up by the Court of Chancery, who have summoned before the Lord Mayor, at the instance of Mr. Palmer, a farmer of Letchworth, near Morden, charging them "that they unlawfully made, circulated, and published, were concerned in, and were circulating, and publishing, a certain publication, and that the same, namely, the prospectus and report and balance-sheets of that company, well knowing it to be false in certain material particular, with intent thereby to induce Mr. Palmer to become a shareholder in the concern." The case, which excited much interest, was only part heard, and was adjourned until the 1st November, being accepted for the appearance of the accused.

A cricket match will be played to-morrow (Friday) and Saturday, between The Club and The Army and Navy. The match will commence punctually at 1.30 p.m. to-morrow. The Bands of H.M.S. *Admiral* and of H.M.S. *Britannia* will perform on the Cricket Ground to-morrow and Saturday respecting.

The Band of Her Majesty's 30th Regiment will perform the following programme this evening at eight o'clock:

Quick March, "The Wiener Fete" Peter, Parker, "The 3rd Duke," "The 10th Duke," "The 11th Duke," "The 12th Duke," "The 13th Duke," "The 14th Duke," "The 15th Duke," "The 16th Duke," "The 17th Duke," "The 18th Duke," "The 19th Duke," "The 20th Duke," "The 21st Duke," "The 22nd Duke," "The 23rd Duke," "The 24th Duke," "The 25th Duke," "The 26th Duke," "The 27th Duke," "The 28th Duke," "The 29th Duke," "The 30th Duke," "The 31st Duke," "The 32nd Duke," "The 33rd Duke," "The 34th Duke," "The 35th Duke," "The 36th Duke," "The 37th Duke," "The 38th Duke," "The 39th Duke," "The 40th Duke," "The 41st Duke," "The 42nd Duke," "The 43rd Duke," "The 44th Duke," "The 45th Duke," "The 46th Duke," "The 47th Duke," "The 48th Duke," "The 49th Duke," "The 50th Duke," "The 51st Duke," "The 52nd Duke," "The 53rd Duke," "The 54th Duke," "The 55th Duke," "The 56th Duke," "The 57th Duke," "The 58th Duke," "The 59th Duke," "The 60th Duke," "The 61st Duke," "The 62nd Duke," "The 63rd Duke," "The 64th Duke," 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Extracts.

DO YOU HEAR THE CHILDREN WEERING?

Why weep ye by the laughing brook,
Little sister dear?
What words are in that well-worn book
To make you shed one tear?
The lark sings in the sky,
She only clasped her little knee,
And kept more bitterly.

I gathered her into my arms,
Well-worn book and all;
Old half-forgotten nursery charms
The scene how happy on the lake,
How gay the ducklings were!
A plumpish answer did she make—
"Oh, brother, don't they care?"

"What awful mystery of woe,
Little sister dear,
O'er so bright a world can throw
For you a shadow dear!"

She laid her head on my book and said,
"Hast Christian Andersen is dead?"

Then cried herself asleep.

JOSEPH MACAY.

IVAN THE TERRIBLE.

Precious at what time the faithful and affectionate subjects of his Majesty Ivan IV.

Count of all the Russians, conferred upon him his set name, "The Terrible," history

neglects to inform us, but we are left in no

uncertainty as to the entire approachableness

of the title, which is now inexplicably linked

with his baptismal name. He inherited the

throne at the age of three years, and his early

education was specially attended to by his

faithful guardians, who, abased and scared

him in the hope, that they might so fa-

venekled his intellect as to secure a permanent

hold over him, and through him govern

Russia as they pleased. They made a full

steel of him, armories, and a foot-ball at

others, and under their system of training,

the development of those qualities of mind

and heart for which he is celebrated was re-

markable rapid. He was always Ivan the ter-

rible, and he became Ivan the terrible before

he was old enough to have played a reason-

able rood game of marbles or to have

become tamely expert in the art of

smashing the toy. Indeed, he would

seem that the young grand Prince was

wholly irresponsible. The joys of these

and the other excellent sports in which

an impulsive turn of mind, he invented

others better suited to his taste and charac-

ter. One of the pastimes—perhaps the first

and simplest one devised by the youthful

genius—consisted in the dropping of cats,

dogs, and other domestic animals from the

top of the rafters to the pavement below, and

sentimental historians have construed these

interesting experiments upon the law of gra-

vitation into cruelty. Apothecaries of the young

Czar's amusements was to turn half-furnished

beds over passing pedlars and

it is the part of charity to suppose that this

purpose in this was to study the physiologi-

cal physiognomies of fear. A

less profitable way he had of accomplishing

the same thing by throwing, or, as youthful

Americans phrase it, "shyng" stones at

passers-by concealing himself meanwhile

behind a screen. He cultivated his skill in

horseback riding over elderly people,

cripples, and children. In short, his boisterous

sports were all of an original and highly in-

teresting sort.

Up to the age of 13 Ivan was under the

tutelage of a council, of which the Prince

Shuisky was chief, and it was this Prince

who domineered over the boy and made a

toot-hall of his body. At that age Ivan

asserted his independence in a very positive

and emphatic way, which even the Prince

Shuisky could not misapprehend. The young

Czar was out hunting, accompanied by

Shuisky and other Princes and boyards,

among whom was Prince Glushky, a rival of

Shuisky's, who was prejudiced against that

excellent gentleman. At his suggestion Ivan

addressed his guardian Shuisky in language

which the latter deemed insolent. Shuisky

replied angrily, and Ivan requested his dogs

to remonstrate with the Prince, which they

did by tearing him limb from limb.

Having thus silenced the dictation of

Shuisky, the young Prince became the way

of the no less excellent Glushky, and was

carefully taught that the only way in which

he could effectively assert authority was by

punishment. It was made clear to his

budding intellect, too, that the shortest,

simplest, and altogether the best way to get

rid of disagreeable people was to record

to death, and throughout his life Ivan never

forgot this lesson for a single moment.

Power, he was told, was worthless unless it

was used, and the only way in which it could

be really used was by oppression. For three

years no pains were spared to teach him this

system of ethics and politics, and the young

Prince, in his anxiety to perfect himself in

the art of governing, diligently practiced all

these presents.

When he was 17 years of age he was

formally crowned Czar. The citizens,

ignorant of the truths of political economy

and the principles of governmental science

underlying the young Czar's system, became

alarmed and fired the city one night. When

Ivan awoke he was terrified, being of an

abnormally nervous temperament, and was

the apportion of a warning monk, together with

the influence of Anastasia, the young Czurina,

led the Czar to abandon the simple and

straightforward methods of government in

which he had been bred, and for eighteen

years, under the dictation of Alexis Adashev

and the monk Sylvestre, Ivan devoted himself

to the common place employments of de-

veloping Russia politically. He dismissed

his Ministers, and put others in their places.

He reorganized the army, revised the Code

in the interest of abstract justice; equalized

assessments; subduced the Tatars; estab-

lished forts for the protection of the

frontiers; laid the foundation for the future

greatness of his Empire; began the work

which was completed so grandly under Peter

the Great; introduced printing into Russia;

added greatly to her possessions; checked

the abuses of her clergy; brought artists

from Western Europe; and in a hundred

ways made himself famous by doing these

things which historians love to chronicle.

Meanwhile, his genius for governing was

born dead, but slept, and after its nap of

thirteen years it awoke one day, refreshed.

Anastasia, the beautiful Queen whom he

had destined for so long a time, died, and Ivan

had an old Bishop who had been banished

for his crimes, and consulted him as to his

future course.

"If you wish to be truly a sovereign," said

this eminent prelate, "never seek a counsellor

within yourself; never receive advice

from any man. Command, but never obey;

and you will be a terror to the boyards."

Remembered that he who is permitted to begin

by advising is certain to end by ruling is

sovereign.

Herod's advice of a contented to Ivan's

taste and education, and for sooth he knew

the whole Bishop's hand, saying—

"My own father could not have spoken

more wisely."

That the Czar spoke sincerely, his faith

in following the Bishop's precepts

abundantly attested.

His Ministers and advisers were man-

ifestly wiser than he, and therefore not at all

the proper kind of people to have about, he

straightforwardly banished them. He then began

a diligent search for their partisans, some of

whom he put to death, conducting others to

imprisonment and torture. He not turned

his attention to his own household, which he

was resolved upon ruling absolutely, at least,

if not well. One of the Princes made him

self disagreeable by declining to participate freely in the pleasures of the place and for the sake of domestic harmony, Ivan had him pinioned while he was at his prayers. Another so far overstepped the bounds of courtesy and propriety as to remonstrate with the Czar, and in his estimate of his power to do so far righted his own wife. Believing that he might with equal impunity insult the moral sense of other nations, he actually sought to add England's Queen, Elizabeth, to the list of his spouses. And he was so far right in his estimate of his power to do so far righted his own wife. Believing that he might with equal impunity insult the moral sense of other nations, he actually sought to add England's Queen, Elizabeth, to the list of his spouses. And he was so far right in his estimate of his power to do so far righted his own wife.

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